Criteria for setting up of Nuclear Power Plants

2713. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for setting up Nuclear Power Plants;

(b) the States which have requested the Central Government to set up such plants; and

(c) the action taken by Government is each case ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) While setting up nuclear power plants in the country, the technical suitability of the site, magnitude of land acquisition and rehabilitation of the affected population, availability of large water to meet the requirements of cooling water, population density, power evacuation, transportation of heavy equipment,other technical aspects like seismicity, foundation conditions, other energy options available in the region and the availability of financial resources are considered by the Department. Statutory clearances from the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board and the Ministry of Enviroment & Forests are also obtained before setting up a project.

(b) Government of Haryana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh have requested for setting up nuclear power projects in their respective States. In addition, in response to the request of Site Selection Committee (SSC) appointed by the Department in September 2005, the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa and West Bengal have also offered sites for evaluation by the SSC.

(c) A Site Selection Committee is carrying out the work for deatiled assessment of each new sites.

Availability of Thorium

2714. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of thorium used in nuclear reactors in the country out of the total nuclear fuel;

(b) the potential availability of thorium in the country as nuclear fuel; and